

PERINATAL CARE

sense because in most cases patients do not require care in sophisticated treatment centers. It is true that 90 percent of deliveries are routine but unfortunately we have no way of identifying in advance most of those mothers or babies in whom difficulties will develop. As long as this is a fact then every patient must be considered high-risk and centers used for delivery.

Summary

In summary, after reviewing the results of this questionnaire, it is apparent that the physicians in Orange County are in favor of the best possible pediatric and obstetrical care available. Some feel that a regional center will not improve care. Many feel that such a situation would destroy the traditional physician-patient relationship. Most feel that if such centers are established, they must be open to all physicians. Many have voiced grave concern that this would give an entree to socialized medicine.

After talking to many people and studying the data, it is the authors' opinion that certain concepts must be accepted if regionalization of perinatal care is to become a reality in Orange County. A system must be designed in which private practitioners are guaranteed the right to practice in such a center. All administrative controls must come ultimately from those in private practice. Reviewing should be by peer review of other practitioners. Both consultants and patients must clearly understand who the primary physicians are and that the consultants are no more than that. Many of the respondents also have emphasized that governmental control should be left out of this system. It should be understood from the beginning that any funds from government should not have any strings attached which might jeopardize control by the practicing physicians themselves. If such assurances can be given, we think that there will be no reservations about this concept of regionalized care in Orange County.

Mesenteric Venous Thrombosis and the Pill

The thing that worries me about mesenteric venous thrombosis is that it's been reported in young women taking contraceptive pills . . . It's a very serious problem and I should suggest that in any woman taking contraceptive pills who's having severe bouts of recurrent pain, one might suspect at least the possibility that it's related to this process. It has an insidious onset. It has a very poor survival rate because frequently it's not picked up early enough. And it's frequently associated with rather serious diseases anyhow.

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